

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 00186 130328Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03
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R 111328Z JAN 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 138

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 00186

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 00186 VICE 1086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, EG

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF KING HUSSEIN'S UPCOMING
VISIT TO CAIRO

REF: CAIRO 472

1. LOCAL PRESS IS GIVING CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY TO KING
HUSSEIN'S PLANNED VISIT TO CAIRO JANUARY 13. EGYPTIAN
MENA QUOTED AS STATING THAT VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO
INVITATION FROM PRES SADAT EXTENDKED DURING PHONE
CONVERSATION THREE DAYS AGO.

2. PRESS STORIES STATE THAT TALKS IN ASWAN WILL FOCUS
ON COORDINATING ARAB POSITIONS PRIOR TO GENEVA CONFERENCE,
REPLEIES THAT SADAT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE TWO SUPERPOWERS
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 00186 130328Z

REGARDING THE GENEVA TALKS, AND VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF
JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONSAND OF A PALESTINIAN
STATE. LATER ITEM COUCHED IN CONTEXT OF SADAT'S
RECENT WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW ABOUT LINKS BETWEEN
JORDAN AND ANY FUTURE PALESTINE STATE. AT SAME TIME,
JORDANIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT
INTERVIEW WITH KUWAIT MAZAZINE THAT JORDAN STILL HONORS

RABAT SUMMIT DECISION RE PLO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALESTINIAN MATTERS IN ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. DELIBERATIONS WILL ALSO TOUCH ON EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS " IN LIGHT OF THE STEPS TOWARD UNITY BEING ADOPTED" IN ARAB WORLD. JORDAN'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT QUOTED AS STATING EXPLICITLY THAT "KING'S VISIT COMES IN THE WAKE OF THE SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN MOVE TO FORM A JOINING POLITICAL COMMITTEE"

3. EDITORIALS WAX ELOQUENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING IN CONTEXT OF DEVELOPING ARAB RELATIONS. PRIMACY OF BAGHDAD AND ISOLATION OF DAMASCUS IN FIFTIES AND SIXTIES IS CONTRASTED EDITORIALY WITH "THE EMERGING CAIRO-DAMASCUS-AMMAN AXIS, THE FULL DIMENSIONS OF WHICH WILL BECOME APPARENT FOLLOWING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO CAIRO." AD-DUSTOUR EDITORIAL PAYS COMPLIMENTS TO MATURE BEHAVIOR OF DAMASCUS IN THIS ENTENTE: "SYRIA'S RESTORATION OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT HAS NEVER BEEN UNDERTAKEN AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH AMMAN." DAMASCUS IS CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING BEEN THE NATURAL MEDIATOR IN THE EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN DIALOGUE. ASH-SHA'AB EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZES CAIRO MEETING AS LOGICAL EXTENSION OF CAIRO AND RIYADH SUMMITS, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF JORDAN'S AND EGYPT'S SPECIAL ROLES IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AS "TWO PRINCIPAL WINGS OF THE ARAB CONFRONTATION OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY."

4. COMMENT: PRESS SLANT IS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO
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PAGE 03 AMMAN 00186 130328Z

OVERCOME IMPRESSION OF SOME THAT JORDAN SLIPPING IN IMPORTANCE TO DIPLOMACY OF MIDDLE EAST AS REGION ENTERS IMPORTANT NEW YEAR OF ARAB PEACE OFFENSIVE. SOPHISTICATED OBSERVERS LOCALLY WILL ALSO SEE KING'S VISIT TO CAIRO AS ATTEMPT TO BRING MORE BALANCE INTO JORDAN'S SYRIA RELATIONSHIP -- AN ATTEMPT MANY WILL WELCOME.
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